

Tuesday 10/20/20

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'Very Unusual Year': US Researchers Tag Record Number of Sharks Along California Coast - Photo
by [Gaby Arancibia](#)

Researchers working in conjunction with California State University's Long Beach Shark Lab recently revealed that they have managed to tag 38 sharks - the most in the program's 10 active years - off the coast of Southern California in 2020.

Having recorded triple the number of successful tags when compared to 2019 figures, [researchers explained to CNN](#) that they also spotted sharks in areas where they were not sighted prior, such as the San Diego coastline.

"It seems like 2020 will be a year-round shark season, and we don't know why," Chris Lowe, the program's director, told the outlet. "There's a lot of questions we don't have answers to right now."

Indeed, officials involved in the program have several head-scratchers to clear up, including trying to explain why sharks are sticking around sandy beaches for extended periods of time.

"What's unusual is that this year we have aggregations still going since March, so while new sharks have come into the aggregation and some left, by large we still have animals we tagged in March that are sticking around, and we haven't seen that before," Lowe noted.

"It looks like a very unusual year."

Officials have speculated that warming ocean temperatures could be the reason why sharks aren't progressing south on their yearly migratory paths. Additionally, it's believed that the sharks' opting not to leave the warm California waters has something to do with food sources. While sharks have been traversing close to public beaches, program researchers indicated that they have not been demonstrating much interest in the nearby humans; however, officials still urge individuals to be aware of their surroundings and to steer clear of seal colonies, as the animals are commonly shark prey.

"There's still a lot of sharks around that aren't even tagged yet, so we're probably going to tag even more before the year's over," Lowe predicted, noting that the program managed to hit a record in tags despite having to limit team sizes in order to stay in compliance with COVID-19-preventative measures.

The latest development from the research team [comes months after it was revealed](#) that they were tapping drone technology in an effort to better study and understand the habits of great white sharks along the US' West Coast. Similarly, such tech has been used by Australian officials, who recently managed to [warn a professional surfer about a nearby predator](#).

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Kitty Plays Friendly With Koi Fish - Video Club

Mika, a 1-year-old cat, recently put their curiosity on full display while repeatedly pawing at a koi fish at a nearby pond.

Footage shared on Instagram captures the inquisitive feline initially eyeing a pair of koi before a third fish pops up and ultimately startles the cat with its sudden movement.

Here, fishy, fishy.

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Pentagon Estimates New Nuclear-Armed ICBM Arsenal Will Cost \$95.8 Billion
by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

The Pentagon said on Monday that the Ground-Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD), the nuclear missile system that will replace the Minuteman III arsenal by the end of the decade, will cost roughly \$95.8 billion.

On Monday, [Department of Defense officials told the Associated Press](#) the estimated cost of replacing the 450 Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) that form the ground-based portion of the US nuclear triad would be \$95.8 billion - about \$10 billion more than estimates four years ago.

The US Air Force hopes to have the new missiles reach initial operational capability by 2029. The Minuteman IIIs they will replace have been in continuous use since the early 1970s. Earlier this month, [Bloomberg reported that internal Pentagon estimates](#) obtained by the outlet and dated September 21 estimated the GBSD's cost at \$110.6 billion. That document, an unclassified memo from Ellen Lord, the Pentagon's undersecretary for acquisition and sustainment, included the purchase of 659 missiles: 25 for initial testing and 634 to go in the silos, along with spares and missiles for later testing.

The difference includes [the \\$13.3 billion contract awarded to defense contractor Northrop Grumman](#) on September 8 to design the missiles.

On top of that - literally - is the replacement program for the Minuteman III's warhead, the W87-1, a 450-kiloton nuclear weapon that once sat in packs of 10 on the massive Peacekeeper ICBM, which the US retired in 2005. While the W87 was adapted to the Minuteman III at that time, some of the missiles still use the W78 warhead, which was purpose-built for the missile.

[According to a September 23 public version](#) of a February report on the project by the Government Accountability Office, modernizing the W87 could cost as much as \$14.8 billion. Each new missile will have just a single warhead on top, as all current US ICBMs do.

The projects are part of a much larger effort to modernize the entire US nuclear arsenal, including replacing more than a dozen ballistic missile submarines and their missiles, which together will cost an estimated \$1.2 trillion, [according to the Congressional Budget Office](#). That effort is expected to last until 2046.

Along with its ground-based ICBMs and submarine-launched ballistic missiles, the US also maintains nuclear gravity bombs and nuclear-tipped cruise missiles that can be carried into battle by its B-52 and B-2 strategic bombers. Together, they form a "triad" that ensures the US'

ability to give a devastating response to any potential nuclear attack by another nation. The only other countries with such ability are Russia, India [and possibly China](#).

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Video: US Navy's Zumwalt Stealth Destroyer Fires First-Ever Missile
by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

The US Navy's stealthy destroyer, the USS Zumwalt, has fired a missile for the first time ever, the service announced on Monday.

According to the Navy, the Zumwalt fired a Standard Missile 2 (SM-2) anti-air missile off the coast of Point Mugu, California, on October 13. The Zumwalt is the world's largest destroyer, but until earlier this year had no working armament; it only fired its 30-millimeter Bushmaster deck guns [for the first time in May](#).

"Today's successful test not only demonstrates the ship's capability to fire missiles and conduct self-defense, it is also a significant step toward more advanced combat system testing and operations for our Navy's most technically innovative warship," Capt. Matt Schroeder, program manager of the Zumwalt program, [said in a Monday news release](#).

"The USS Zumwalt crew and Surface Development Squadron One are working hand-in-hand with the acquisition community to advance this ship's operational capability."

In the 1990s, the US Navy envisioned a massive new coastal bombardment warship to take the place of its destroyers as well as the massive Iowa-class battleships that were once again being retired. The Zumwalt-class was a scaled-down version of that dream, albeit initially still capable of heavy bombardment with two quick-firing heavy deck cannons as well as more than 130 vertical missile launch tubes. However, budget cuts soon eliminated the guns, and the Navy struggled for years with the question of what to do with the ship.

Now, instead of nearly three dozen stealthy destroyers, the US Navy has just three ships in the Zumwalt-class: the USS Zumwalt and USS Michael Monsoor, both of which are active in the Navy, and the USS Lyndon B. Johnson, which is still fitting out.

The SM-2 is set to become one of the Zumwalt's primary weapons, meaning it will be performing a more typical missile destroyer role like the Navy's Arleigh Burke-class ships, although about one-third larger. However, it will also pack other, smaller weapons like the RIM-162 Evolved Sea Sparrow anti-air missile. Eventually, the Zumwalt will also receive Tomahawk cruise missiles and other long-range strike weapons.

[Sputnik recently reported that the Navy was considering](#) replacing one of the two radars initially planned for the Zumwalt that would have given it extremely long-range search capabilities, but which was also cut in the name of trimming budgets.

According to the release, the Navy hopes to have the Zumwalt ready for its first patrols in 2021.

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US Marine Corps General Removed From Command Amid Probe Into Use of N-Word
by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

The US Marine Corps (USMC) announced on Tuesday that Maj. Gen. Stephen Neary had been fired as the commander of Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa after losing the confidence of his troops and superiors by using a racial slur in front of his troops last month.

Marine Commandant [Gen. David Berger told the Marine Corps Times on Tuesday](#) that “Neary was relieved due to a loss of trust and confidence in his ability to serve in command.”

US military publication [Stars and Stripes reported on October 2](#) that Neary had used the N-word in the presence of other Marines during a recent training exercise and that the Corps had launched an investigation of the incident. Neary reportedly asked several junior Marines how they felt about him saying the word as they engaged in physical training while rap music using the word played in the background.

[The paper spoke with individuals who witnessed the event](#), who said that Black, Latino and white Marines “were jolted when the general said the word.”

“He lost respect right there,” one Marine told Stars and Stripes.

Since the renewed nationwide uprisings against racism and white supremacy broke in May and June of 2020, Berger has taken measures to curb the expression of racist ideology in the USMC’s ranks.

“Current events are a stark reminder that it is not enough for us to remove symbols that cause division – rather, we also must strive to eliminate division itself. The trust Marines place in one another on a daily basis demands this,” [Berger said in June after banning display](#) of the “Stars and Bars” battle flag used by the Confederate States of America, a southern secessionist movement aiming to preserve the enslavement of Black people that caused the US Civil War between 1861 and 1865.

“Nothing crushes cohesion faster,” [Berger told Defense One in September](#), speaking about racism in the ranks. “It just starts to tear apart the fabric at the tactical level. We can’t have that.” However, the problem is very deeply rooted. A poll conducted across all service branches [by the Military Times in the closing months of 2019](#) found that 36% of respondents had personally witnessed displays of racism or white nationalism among their fellow troops.

Several incidents have garnered wider attention since then, including [an infantryman who was investigated for allegedly sharing](#) white supremacist propaganda about Europeans conquering Native American tribes on social media, another infantryman [who was booted from the Corps](#) for sharing neo-Nazi posts and more recently, a Marine who [filmed a tirade threatening to kill Asian-Americans](#) in the service as revenge for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moreover, across the US military, [a pronounced uptick in membership in neo-Nazi groups](#) like Identity Evropa and Atomwaffen has been unveiled in recent years, and [many recruiting rings have been uncovered](#).

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Video: US Navy Super Hornet Jet Crashes During Drill in California, Pilot Survives
by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

A US Navy F/A-18E Super Hornet crashed in southern California during drills on Tuesday. The pilot ejected safely prior to the crash.

The fighter jet plummeted to the Earth near a rock formation along Highway 14 on the outskirts of Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake on Tuesday afternoon. The cause of the crash is unknown, as is whether or not the aircraft was carrying live munitions at the time of the crash. The explosion from the crash caused a small brush fire that firefighters from China Lake have put out, [according to Bakersfield NBC affiliate KGET](#).

[ABC News' Luis Martinez reported](#) the Pentagon had confirmed the plane's pilot ejected as the jet went down and suffered no major injuries as a result of the incident.

China Lake is a massive research and development facility that covers a territory larger than the US state of Rhode Island. Many of the Navy's weapons have been tested and developed there, including the Tomahawk cruise missile and Sidewinder anti-air missile. [The facility was the site of a major earthquake in July 2019](#) that damaged enough of the base to force a temporary closure for inspection.

The Hornet in its various forms serves as the mainstay of US naval aviation. The Navy flies its C/D variants as well as the upgraded E/F Super Hornets and the E-18 Growler electronic warfare aircraft. Several have suffered major incidents this year, [including two emergency landings at Naval Air Station Oceana](#) in southeastern Virginia and [one crash in the Philippine Sea](#).

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'Fling Enough Mud, Some Will Stick': US Routinely Levies Hacking Accusations It Can't Prove -
Journo

by [Morgan Artyukhina](#)

The US has charged six Russians with working as Russian intelligence agents to direct hacking attacks around the globe, including the infamous NotPetya ransomware. However, a journalist tells Sputnik such claims are virtually impossible to prove, which is why Washington loves to throw them around.

On Monday, the [US Department of Justice laid out a slew of charges](#) against six "Russian GRU officers" who it alleges masterminded malware attacks that caused billions in damage over the last few years.

According to the DoJ, the accused are responsible for the 2015 and 2016 attacks on the Ukrainian power grid; the hacking of French political party La République En Marche during the 2017 elections; the 2017 NotPetya worldwide ransomware attack; several attacks on the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea; spearphishings targeting various entities investigating the alleged poisonings of Sergei and Yulia Skripal in 2018; and a 2018 and 2019

spearphishing campaign that targeted several companies and government institutions in the Caucasian republic of Georgia.

[According to TechCrunch, the accused live in Russia](#), and thus the indictment “serves as a ‘name and shame’ effort, frequently employed by Justice Department prosecutors in recent years where arrests or extraditions are not likely or possible.”

Daniel Lazare, investigative journalist and author of "The Velvet Coup," told [Radio Sputnik's Political Misfits](#) on Tuesday the US loves to blame the Russian government for hacking attacks because it's virtually impossible to prove the claims' veracity while being politically useful to smear enemies.

“It's a safe bet that Washington has little idea how Russian intelligence works and it operates under the assumption that if the name ends in an -sky or -ov, then it must be Russian intelligence. But in fact the evidence is always lacking, and they're always unable to prove a connection, so therefore we're left with the fact that certain individual Russians may have tried to hack certain Western computers, but that's all we know. It's really all we can know. The hype is invariably inflated,” Lazare told hosts Michelle Witte and Bob Schlehuder.

“The presumption is that when anyone in Russia hacks any computer anywhere that somehow it's at the behest of Russian intelligence and/or the Kremlin,” Lazare said.

“I mean we saw that in Russiagate, for example: I mean, [former special counsel Robert] Mueller ... made that leap all the time in tying the Internet Research Agency - the company in St. Petersburg which allegedly placed the false ads with Facebook - he constantly made the connection in his report between them and the Kremlin. Yet he offered up no evidence whatsoever. It was really astonishing. No one questions him on that because the mindset in America is: yes, if it's a Russian it's got to be Russian intelligence. It's got to be [Russian President Vladimir] Putin. As far as Americans are concerned, those three entities - Russia, Putin and Russian intelligence - are essentially the same.”

Lazare recalled that in the case of the alleged hacking of French President Emmanuel Macron's party in the 2017 elections, [the US National Security Agency claimed at the time](#) that Russian intelligence had run the attack, but Guillaume Poupard, the head of the French computer security agency [ANSSI, roundly rejected that idea, saying the attack](#) “was so generic and simple that it could have been practically anyone.”

“Washington operates under the assumption that if you fling enough mud, some of it will stick,” Lazare told Sputnik. “So if these allegations are made again and again and again, then people will be sort of bludgeoned into believing that there's gotta be some truth there somewhere.” Lazare said “the most frightening thing about cyberwarfare” is the ability of spy agencies to camouflage their work - he recalled that the Vault 7 leaks exposed the CIA's ability to disguise its hacks as having been by another country - and the ability to dissimulate when bringing the information to the public, most of whom don't understand the topic well enough to really know what's being said or not said.

“It's almost impossible to know what's happening,” he said. “If, for example, some dam turbine closes down for reasons that no one can explain, and someone says, ‘Ah, it's Russian cyberwarfare’ - well it may be, or it may not be, but it's almost impossible to prove. But Western governments - and the US especially - have taken the attitude that ‘act first, think later.’ If it's believed to be Russian cyberwarfare, then we will respond with an equal and opposite attack, if not moreso.”

“What that means is that if some turbine shuts down somewhere, we will black out three Russian cities. And then only months later will some intrepid reporter discover that ‘well hey, the evidence for that Russian involvement in that turbine shutdown is actually rather scanty,’” Lazare said.

He noted that when the US goes on the offensive, as it did with the Stuxnet attack on Iran’s nuclear industry in the late 2000s, it causes a “rapid escalation, and also a rapid plunge into indeterminacy, because no one knows where these attacks are coming from or if they really are attacks. It’s a kind of underground warfare [in] which the normal rules of warfare don’t apply, and therefore all sides are fairly invited to cast all caution to the winds and behave as recklessly as they proceed.”

“If there’s anything that should be keeping us up at night, this is it,” Lazare told Sputnik.

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Hard Times Ahead: COVID-19 Hospitalizations Soar in Over 30 US States as Virus Spreads

COVID-19 hospitalizations are increasing in many US states, according to a CNBC analysis of data collected by the COVID Tracking Project.

According to the [COVID Tracking Project](#), hospitalizations from the respiratory illness across the US have increased over the last month. The latest data shows that on Monday, there were more than 37,000 Americans hospitalized due to COVID-19. There has been an average of 56,000 new cases every day over the last week, which is 13% more than last week.

In fact, COVID-19 hospitalizations had increased by at least 5% in 37 states as of Sunday, [according to CNBC’s analysis](#), with Alaska, Iowa, Kentucky, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah, Wisconsin and West Virginia all experiencing record highs in average hospitalizations in recent days.

Even though the current average number of new cases is lower than the roughly 70,000 per day the US was reporting earlier during the pandemic, it is still higher than the average of about 30,000 cases per day recorded in September.

Texas, in particular, seems to be on the cusp of another surge, and the state has already confirmed [more than 800,000 cases](#) during the pandemic. On Monday alone, there were more than 2,200 new cases.

Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins this week also [upgraded the area’s coronavirus threat](#) level to red - the highest risk status - as infections continue to spike.

The only two areas in the US where hospitalizations are currently declining are in the District of Columbia and Hawaii.

New cases across the US increased in October, with over 57,000 cases in the country on Monday. However, despite the increased number of cases and hospitalizations, the daily death rate has remained relatively constant since October 7.

“What’s concerning here is that it’s only mid-October and there is a long fall and winter,” Dr. Isaac Bogoch, an infectious disease specialist and professor at the University of Toronto, told CNBC.

"We are clearly in the second wave in many parts of the Northern Hemisphere, and we really need to have more control of this infection at the community level. We know exactly what it's like when health care systems are spread beyond capacity. We saw that in New York City. We saw that in Houston. We saw that in many other parts of the United States," he added.

Former US Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb told CNBC on Monday that the US has tough times ahead.

"We're going to get through it. We're probably in the 7th inning of the acute phase of this pandemic right now, but the hardest part is probably ahead," Gottlieb told CNBC's "Squawk Box."

On October 14, Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and member of the White House coronavirus task force, warned people against attending social gatherings around Thanksgiving, the upcoming US holiday, as COVID-19 cases surge.

"You may have to bite the bullet and sacrifice that social gathering, unless you're pretty certain that the people that you're dealing with are not infected," Fauci told ["CBS Evening News"](#) anchor Norah O'Donnell.

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Israel Defense Forces Launch Retaliatory Strikes on Gaza After Intercepting Rocket

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) confirmed retaliatory strikes on Gaza Tuesday local time after intercepting a rocket fired from Gaza earlier that day.

According to [Shebab Agency](#), drones and jets were being deployed over Gazan airspace.

Reports also indicated that IDF aircraft were [targeting agricultural land east](#) of Deir Al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip.

The IDF confirmed the attacks in a statement shortly after initial reports emerged.

"Recently, IDF fighter jets and a fighter helicopter attacked an underground Hamas terrorist organization's infrastructure in the southern Gaza Strip. The attack was carried out in response to a rocket fired from the Gaza Strip into Israeli territory earlier tonight," [the IDF said](#).

The retaliatory strikes came after a Gaza-launched rocket was intercepted hours earlier by IDF's Iron Dome.

"Just 2 hours after we exposed a terror tunnel dug from Gaza into Israel, terrorists in Gaza fired one rocket toward Israeli civilians. The Iron Dome intercepted the rocket. We will protect Israeli civilians from threats above and below ground," [the IDF statement read at the time](#).

Explosions were also reported in the Gaza Strip Saturday morning local time after a rocket was launched from the Palestinian territory into Israel, [Sputnik reported](#). The explosions took place after a rocket was fired from Gaza Friday evening.

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NASA's OSIRIS-REx Spacecraft Successfully Touches Down on Asteroid Bennu in Historic Sample Attempt

NASA's OSIRIS-REx spacecraft touched down on asteroid Bennu on Tuesday to nab a sample of dirt to return to Earth.

"The asteroids are like time capsules, floating in space, that can provide a fossil record of the birth of our solar system," Lori Glaze, director of NASA's planetary science division, said during a Monday news conference, [the New York Times reported](#).

By studying the rock and dirt samples from Bennu, NASA hopes to obtain a deeper understanding of how the solar system formed around 4.5 billion years ago and how to prevent asteroid collisions with Earth.

"Everything I've worked on has been focused on this day, getting the spacecraft down to contact the asteroid and collect the sample," Dr. Dante Lauretta, a professor of planetary science and cosmochemistry at the University of Arizona and the mission's leader, [told CNBC](#).

OSIRIS-REx will hopefully collect at least 2 ounces of material to send back to Earth.

NASA is expected to hold a news conference Wednesday to share early images from the maneuver, which will determine if the sampling attempt was successful. However, researchers will only know how much dirt was collected after comparing the spacecraft's mass before and after the maneuver. This analysis is expected to take about 10 days, which means the maneuver's outcome won't be determined until at least late October, [Space.com explained](#).

Researchers at NASA announced they had chosen a site on Bennu at which to land the spacecraft in December 2019, three years after the craft was launched in September 2016.

Since arriving at Bennu in December 2018, the spacecraft has been observing the asteroid and recording when it spews debris from its surface into space.

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Zeptoseconds: German Researchers Record Shortest-Ever Unit of Time

German scientists at Goethe University Frankfurt have measured the shortest unit of time ever recorded: the zeptosecond.

In fact, researchers have determined that it takes 247 zeptoseconds to measure the amount of time it takes a light particle to cross a hydrogen molecule, which consists of two hydrogen atoms. A zeptosecond is a trillionth of a billionth of a second.

The researchers' study, [published in the journal Science](#), describes how the scientists carried out the time measurement by irradiating a hydrogen molecule with X-rays provided by the synchrotron light source PETRA III at the Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron (DESY) accelerator center in Hamburg.

DESY is a German national research center that uses particle accelerators to study the structure of matter. The researchers used an X-ray energy level that caused a photon, a type of elementary particle, to expel electrons from the hydrogen molecule.

"Since we knew the spatial orientation of the hydrogen molecule, we used the interference of the two electron waves to precisely calculate when the photon reached the first and when it reached the second hydrogen atom," study co-author Sven Grundmann [said in a statement](#). The study's abstract defines photoionization as one of the light-matter interaction processes in which the absorption of a photon causes an electron to be expelled. Previous experiments have found time delays in the "attosecond (10-18 seconds) domain between electron ejection from different orbitals, from different electronic bands, or in different directions," according to the study.

In their analysis, the researchers found that an electron is not launched at the same time across a molecular orbital.

"Rather, the birth time depends on the travel time of the photon across the molecule, which is 247 zeptoseconds for the average bond length of molecular hydrogen," the study concludes. Egyptian chemist Ahmed Zewail was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1999 for measuring the speed at which molecules alter their shape and for establishing the field of femtochemistry. The formation and breaking of chemical bonds take place in extremely short timescales measured in femtoseconds, each of which is equal to 10⁻¹⁵ seconds.

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Photo: US Police to Discipline Cop Who Wore 'Trump 2020' Mask at Polling Station
by [Evan Craighead](#)

The Miami Police Department (MPD) in Florida has moved to take disciplinary action against Officer Daniel Ubeda, whose name became a trending topic on social media Tuesday after he was seen wearing a "Trump 2020" mask emblazoned with profanity.

Ubeda quickly rose to infamy on Twitter after his photo drew accusations of being another example of voter intimidation across the US. "Trump 2020" and "no more bulls**t" were seen written across his face mask, which he chose to wear while working at Government Center's voting site in Downtown Miami.

[Pursuant to Florida statute 102.031](#), "no person, political committee, or other group or organization may solicit voters inside the polling place or within 150 feet of the entrance to any polling place, a polling room where the polling place is also a polling room, an early voting site, or an office of the supervisor where vote-by-mail ballots are requested and printed on demand for the convenience of electors who appear in person to request them."

"We are aware of the photograph being circulated of a Miami Police officer wearing a political mask in uniform," [tweeted](#) the official MPD account Tuesday morning. "This behavior is unacceptable, a violation of departmental policy, and is being addressed immediately."

Deputy Police Chief Ron Papier [told the Miami Herald](#) that he spoke with MPD Chief Jorge Colina regarding the matter and that the "appropriate disciplinary action" will be carried out against Ubeda.

“Obviously this is a clear violation of our department policy regarding campaigning while on duty,” Papier said. “Additionally, the mask has offensive language, which is also a violation of department policy.”

Miami-Dade Democratic Party chair Steve Simeonidis, an attorney, said that he saw Ubeda “well within” the 150-foot barrier identified by law.

“He may have been going to vote. But he was in full uniform with the mask and a gun. That’s voter intimidation,” he claimed, also noting that Ubeda “laughed it off” when questioned about his face mask.

Ubeda’s actions come alongside the MPD’s public push to ensure locals are able to safely cast their votes without on-site intimidation.

“We’ve received an incredible amount of emails and calls from our residents concerning the security of our election process,” said Suarez during a news conference Monday, [as reported by NBC Miami](#). “Some are concerned that they may not be able to vote at all because of harassment that they’ve seen at polling places.”

Miami Mayor Francis Suarez and Colina announced that plainclothes officers would be stationed near polling sites following the increased reports.

“We don’t have any credible threats right now against any polling site in the city of Miami or Miami-Dade County, however we know that it only takes a moment for some radical fringe group to activate a number of people to go out and commit some act to try to intimidate,” Colina said.

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Video: Low-Flying Choppers to Remain in Washington, DC, Area as US Agency Tests Radiation Levels

by [Evan Craighead](#)

Residents of Washington, DC, and the surrounding metropolitan area will continue to hear low-flying helicopters as a US Department of Energy (DoE) agency conducts radiation tests leading up to the January 2021 presidential inauguration.

A Monday [news release](#) from the DoE’s National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) explained that, beginning October 19, the federal agency’s Nuclear Emergency Support Team “will measure naturally occurring background radiation as part of standard preparations to protect public health and safety” in the months leading up to the presidential inauguration, scheduled for January 20, 2021.

The department stressed the chopper flyovers will “occur only during daylight hours” and will take an estimated two hours to complete evaluations in each area. The aircraft will travel “over the areas at 150 feet (or higher) above the ground at a speed of approximately 80 mph.”

“The aerial surveys are a normal part of security and emergency preparedness activities. NNSA is making the public aware of the upcoming flights so citizens who see the low-flying aircraft are not alarmed,” read the memo.

Locals unaware of the same-day announcement questioned why a helicopter was making loops above Silver Spring, Maryland, on Monday.

YouTube footage uploaded by the NNSA shows the twin-engine Bell 412 chopper said to be equipped with “sensitive, state-of-the-art passive radiation sensing technology,” according to the October 19 release.

The helicopters are operated by the Remote Sensing Laboratory Aerial Measuring System via Joint Base Andrews in Prince George's County, Maryland.

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Trump Threatens to Publish ‘60 Minutes’ Interview He Stormed Out of to Show It’s ‘Fake and Biased’

by [Evan Craighead](#)

After storming out of a “60 Minutes” taping at the White House, US President Donald Trump says he’s considering posting a presumably unedited version of his interview with journalist Lesley Stahl.

“I am pleased to inform you that, for the sake of accuracy in reporting, I am considering posting my interview with Lesley Stahl of 60 Minutes, PRIOR TO AIRTIME!” the US president’s account [tweeted Tuesday evening](#).

“This will be done so that everybody can get a glimpse of what a FAKE and BIASED interview is all about ... Everyone should compare this terrible Electoral Intrusion with the recent interviews of Sleepy Joe Biden!”

Trump’s tweets were issued alongside reports, published by [the New York Times](#) and [other outlets](#), claiming 45 abruptly ended the taping of a “60 Minutes” interview with him on Tuesday. The disagreement between Trump and the popular CBS program was allegedly prompted by Stahl’s questions.

“One person briefed on what took place said that Mr. Trump had spent more than 45 minutes filming with Ms. Stahl and her CBS News crew, and that the taping had not wrapped up when the president’s aides had expected it to,” reported the Times.

Two sources told the Times that not only was the interview cut short, but Trump also refused to participate in a separate walk-and-talk segment with Stahl and US Vice President Mike Pence. The US president also posted a video of Stahl at the White House on Tuesday, mocking her for not wearing a mask, though the Times reported that the journalist had worn one until the interview began.

Democratic presidential nominee and former US Vice President Joe Biden previously taped a “CBS Evening News” segment with anchor Norah O’Donnell on Monday. He has yet to publicly comment on that interview.

Though it’s unclear if Trump will actually post an unedited version of the interview, the segment is scheduled to air during the October 25 broadcast of “60 Minutes” at 7 p.m. EDT.

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US Judge Will Allow Grand Jurors to Speak Publicly on Controversial Breonna Taylor Decision
by [Evan Craighead](#)

A Kentucky judge has permitted grand jurors in the Breonna Taylor case to speak publicly about the grand jury's proceedings that led to charges against one of the officers involved in her March killing. The move comes after the release of redacted recordings prompting further speculation on the handling of the case by the state's attorney general.

Jefferson Circuit Court Judge Annie O'Connell announced in a Tuesday court filing that grand jurors in the case related to Taylor's killing by police "may disclose such information, subject to the trial court's order regarding information to be redacted."

"[A]ny grand juror who chooses to disclose their identity to do so with extreme caution, for to do so may result in a level of public attention and scrutiny over which this Court will have no control," she wrote, [as reported by ABC News](#).

O'Connell noted the order "merely grants one grand juror's request to do so and gives others the option ... any one grand juror's memory, options, perceptions are their own. No one grand juror speaks for the others, nor does one's statement carry any more weight than another's." [Ballistics reports](#), [body camera footage](#) and [the grand jury recordings released](#) thus far have brought into question the handling of the case by Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron and the authorities following the raid on the night of March 13 during which Louisville Metro Police Department Officers Brett Hankison, Myles Cosgrove and Jonathan Mattingly fired 32 bullets into Taylor's apartment.

Hankison was later fired by the department.

A bullet fired by Cosgrove has been identified as the one which killed Taylor in minutes after striking her pulmonary artery, which connects the heart and lungs. However, the bullet that reportedly struck Mattingly has not been linked to a police firearm or one belonging to Kenneth Walker, Taylor's boyfriend.

However, the only charges levied by the grand jury were reckless endangerment by Hankison for the bullets that missed Taylor - the 26-year-old's killing was deemed justified.

A Republican, Cameron's experience and possible political agenda have been brought into question since his nomination in 2019. A failed September 2019 lawsuit sought to have Cameron removed from the ballot in the race for Kentucky attorney general because he did not meet the state constitutional requirement to have "been a practicing lawyer eight years before his election," [the Courier-Journal highlighted](#) in July.

While Cameron lacked the [mandated eight years](#) of experience practicing law, he did have connections after serving as legal counsel for Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) for over two years. He was also endorsed by [US President Donald Trump](#), as well as the [Kentucky Fraternal Order of Police](#).

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Dumb & Trumper - Cartoon

US President Donald Trump is once again attacking the media, calling reporters “criminal” for not covering a recent story about his Democratic challenger Joe Biden’s son, Hunter, while also referring to CNN as “dumb bastards” for the network’s coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moments after landing in Prescott, Arizona, on Monday, Trump went into full gear, immediately attacking Reuters reporter Jeff Mason and the media as a whole by calling journalists “criminals” for not reporting on the [New York Post's controversial Hunter Biden story](#), which was [halted from circulation last week on the platforms of social media giants Facebook and Twitter](#).

However, that wasn’t the last of Trump’s rage that pushed against the media as CNN was next on his list. Trump opened his first of two Monday campaign events in the state by declaring that the American people are no longer concerned about the virus – even as it continues to spread in most states.

“They’re getting tired of the pandemic, aren’t they? You turn on CNN. That’s all they cover,” Trump said as his supporters responded with a chorus of boos. “COVID, COVID, pandemic. COVID, COVID, COVID. ... They’re trying to talk everybody out of voting.”

“People aren’t buying it, CNN, you dumb bastards,” said the president. Quick, someone get the president some calming tea!

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Seniors Found Prone to ‘Brain Fog’, Weakness, Emotional Turmoil After Surviving COVID-19 by [Victoria Teets](#)

Many older adults who’ve become critically ill from the COVID-19 coronavirus describe experiencing “brain fog” - or difficulty stringing together thoughts, problems concentrating and issues with short-term memory - after battling the disease.

Such sudden cognitive dysfunction is a common concern for those seniors who have survived COVID-19, [according to Kaiser Health News](#).

Marilyn Walters, 65, has battled what she calls “brain fog,” as have other older people who were previously critically ill with COVID-19.

“Lord, give me back my memory,” she regularly prays.

Walters, who lives in Indianapolis, Indiana, told the outlet, “I still get tired real easy, and I can’t breathe sometimes. If I’m walking, sometimes my legs get wobbly, and my arms get like jelly.”

“Emotionally, it’s been hard, because I’ve always been able to do for myself, and I can’t do that as I like. I’ve been really nervous and jittery,” Walters said. In March and April, she spent three weeks heavily sedated, on a ventilator and fighting for her life in an intensive care unit (ICU).

According to Dr. Zijian Chen, medical director of the Center for Post-COVID Care at Mount Sinai Health System in New York City, “many older patients are having trouble organizing themselves and planning what they need to do to get through the day.”

“They’re reporting that they’ve become more and more forgetful,” he added.

Additionally, such patients must deal with other challenges like overcoming muscle and nerve damage, improving their breathing, adapting to their new limitations or impairments, regaining their strength and stamina and coping with the emotional and mental toll of going through such an unexpected illness.

According to [data from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), most seniors who contract COVID-19 will survive it, and so they will likely have to deal with those issues to varying degrees. Among the age group at greatest risk, people 85 and older, 28% of those with confirmed cases end up dying. Since there are gaps in testing, the actual death rate may be lower, notes Kaiser Health News.

“In older adults, delirium is associated with a heightened risk of losing independence, developing dementia and dying,” the outlet notes. “It can manifest as acute confusion and agitation or as uncharacteristic unresponsiveness and lethargy.”

“What we’re seeing with COVID-19 and older adults are rates of delirium in the 70% to 80% range,” said Dr. Babar Khan, associate director of Indiana University’s Center for Aging Research at the Regenstrief Institute, as well as one of Walters’ physicians.

Another COVID-19 survivor, 77-year-old Chicago documentary filmmaker Gordon Quinn, related his coronavirus experience to Kaiser Health News.

“I remember vividly believing I was in purgatory. I was paralyzed - I couldn’t move. I could hear snatches of TV - reruns of ‘Law & Order: Special Victims Unit’ - and I asked myself, ‘Is this my life for eternity?’” Quinn said.

Given the extent of delirium and mounting evidence of neurological damage from COVID-19, Khan said he expects to see “an increased prevalence of ICU-acquired cognitive impairment in older COVID patients.”

Dr. E. Wesley Ely of Vanderbilt University Medical center recommends that upon leaving the hospital and returning home, such patients ought to receive physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and cognitive rehabilitation, noted Kaiser Health News.